



805

Aspira, taken from the Spanish word for "aspire", is a community agency that has as its goal the social advancement of the Hispanic community through the education of its youth. The primary mission of Aspira is to foster among Hispanic youth aspiration, self-confidence, and ability to achieve in education, accompanied by a lasting commitment to helping others in their community.

Founded in New York in 1961 by Puerto Rican leaders concerned with the community's future, the agency's operation was originally made possible by grants from private foundations and corporations. In 1969, Aspira of America was founded and new Aspira associate agencies opened in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Puerto Rico. Aspira of America offices are located in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Plans are now in progress to open an Aspira affiliate in Florida.

Aspira was founded on the premise that one of the most effective ways to combat socio-economic problems in the community is to educate its youth and develop their leadership potential. Education was chosen as the means for achieving social change, in part because the Puerto Rican community is quite young in comparison to the median age of the general population. Through what has become known as the "Aspira process", young people are encouraged to acquire not only knowledge of educational options, but an appreciation for their cultural heritage, an understanding of community problems, and a deep and lasting commitment to helping others. In this way, the strength they acquire can be reinvested in future generations through community service and participation.

Aspirantes (Aspira youth) are mainly Puerto Rican, because the Aspira agencies are located in communities with large Puerto Rican populations, however, Aspira is open to all, and has lent assistance to youth of all racial and ethnic origins.

Since Aspira's foundation, the agency has helped to place more than 30,000 young people in college. Today, many of these *Aspirantes* are working in various fields, helping others.

El Dia de la Raza

In the United States, October 12 is known as Columbus Day, marking the date, in 1492, when Christopher Columbus, bearing the colors of Spain came upon the New World.

To Hispanics, this same day is known as *El Dia de la Raza*, referring to the foundation of what was to become, in a cultural sense, a new *raza*, or race — the Hispanic American.

For it was the arrival of Columbus that began the long, ongoing process that blended the cultures of Europe with those of the indigenous Indians and, later, the Africans who came to the New World.

Thus, *El Dia de la Raza* is a time when Puerto Ricans, together with other Hispanic Americans from all nations of the Western Hemisphere, celebrate our common cultural heritage.

Aspira of America, Inc. extends its deepest appreciation to the artists for lending their presence and talent to this Gala Hispanic Concert.

We also acknowledge with deep gratitude the invaluable contribution of the Volunteer Committee, listed below, without whose help our Benefit Concert would not have been possible.

Aida Gottlieb, Chairperson
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Margarita Samalot

ASPIRA HISPANIC CONCERT

Aida Gottlieb
Franco Gratale

Director
Stage Coordinator

Masters of Ceremony

Miriam Colon and J.J. Gonzalez
Pan American Symphony Orchestra
Joseph Liso, Conductor

Captain from Castille
South American Overture
Judas Interlude, from opera "Judas"
Dime
La Comparso
Tierra del Eden
Preciosa
Sinfonia Borinqueña

Alfred Newman
Orchestration by Joseph Liso
Joseph Liso
Arturo Somohano
Ernesto Lecuona
Pepito Contreras
Rafael Hernandez
Joseph Liso

PROMESA Percussion Ensemble

Pablo Elvira

Di Provenza il Mar, La Traviata
Largo Al Factotum, Barber of Seville

Verdi
Rossini

Intermission

Emilia Conde
accompanied by

Emilio Arevalo Orchestra

Concierto de Aranjuez
Soñando con Puerto Rico

Joaquin Rodrigo
Bobby Capo

Tahuantinsuyo

La Llamada
Chasquis
Tarkeada
Misterio de los Andes
Danza Aymara
Atahualpa
Danza del Antisuyo
Valicha

from Peru - played on Antaras, Tarka, Bombo
from Ecuador - played on Ocarina, Guitar Bombo
from Bolivia - played on Tarka, Bombo
from Peru - played on Senka-Tenkana, Charango,
Guitar A.M. Garcia
from Bolivia - played on Sikú, Bombo, Charango
from Ecuador - played on Flauta, Guitar, Voices C. Bonilla
from Peru - played on Charango, Quenacho, Bombo P. Santana
from Peru - played on Antara, Kena, Charango, Guitar

Intermission

Manuel B. Gonzalez
accompanying
Angelo Cruz

Amanecer
Aria from opera "El Jibaro"

Moncita Ferrer
Manuel B. Gonzalez

and
Thelma Ithier-Sterling

Aria from opera "Nela"

Manuel B. Gonzalez

Angelo Cruz and Thelma Ithier-Sterling

Duet from opera "Nela"

Manuel B. Gonzalez

Paco Montes - Flamenco Group

Jaleos
Sevillanas
Zapateado
Tientos
Encuentro
Rumba Finale

Entire Group
Danced by Edo and Carmen Rubio
Danced by Edo
Danced by Carmen Rubio
Sung by Paco Montes
Entire Group

Hilda Bracero
accompanied by
Emilio Arevalo Orchestra

Caminando a Solas

Ahora Que Soy Libre
New York, New York

Luis Bonfa and A. Maria
Spanish lyrics by Hilda Bracero
Juan Marcelo
Fred Ebb and John Cander



Miriam Colon came to New York when a special scholarship was created for her by University of Puerto Rico, for training at Erwin Piscator's Dramatic Workshop and Technical Institute, in New York City. Subsequently, Ms. Colon became the first Puerto Rican accepted at the famed Actors Studio, where she has been a member for the last twenty years.

As one of the pioneers of the Hispanic theatre movement in New York City for the past twenty-five years, she co-founded the Nuevo Circulo Dramatico, the first Spanish language arena theatre in New York and has brought to the attention of this country innumerable presentations in English and Spanish by playwrights from Chile, Spain, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Brazil and many other countries.

In addition to her activities as an actress, producer and director, Ms. Colon is a cultural advisor on state and federal levels. She was appointed by the then Governor Nelson Rockefeller, to the New York State Council on the Arts, and serves as Chair-lady of the Special Arts Services Council Sub-Committee. At the national level, Ms. Colon has served as a panelist in the Expansion Arts Panel of the National Endow-ment for the Arts, and also in the Institutional Advancement Pilot Program Panel. She

is also a member of the National Hispanic Task Force.

Her work as a stage, television and film actress include: "One-Eyed Jacks" and "The Appaloosa", both opposite Marlon Brando, "The Possession of Joel Delaney", starring Shirley MacLaine. She recently completed the title role in the film "Isabel La Negra", with Raul Julia, Jose Ferrer and Henry Darrow. On Broadway she played in "The Inkspencers", "In the Summer House" and "The Wrong Way Light Bulb". Off Broadway, Ms. Colon has had major roles in over a dozen plays, including "The Oxcart", "Marty and the Moron and Madonna", "Winterset", "Me", "Candido", "The Passion of Antagona Perez" and "The F.M. Sale". Ms. Colon recently interpreted the role of Calphurnia in the New York Shakespeare Festival's production of "Julius Caesar". She has just returned from Los Angeles, where she starred with Carmen Zapata in the Mexican Bilingual Foundation of the Arts production of "Fanlights", by Rene Marques.

Ms. Colon is the recipient of the Mayor's Award of Honor for Arts and Culture, presented by New York City's Mayor Edward Koch. She was also selected by the National Council of Christian and Jews as the winner of the Extraordinary Woman of Achievement Award. In May, 1979, she received a degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa from St. Peter's College in New Jersey and she also received a doctorate degree, honoris causa, from Rutgers University in New Jersey in May 1980.



J.J. Gonzalez joined Channel 2 as a reporter-assignment editor in September 1969.

He has since distinguished himself by his reporting on many stories, including his six-part series in 1972 on the street gangs of the South Bronx and the award-winning CHANNEL 2 EYE ON broadcast "Room 330: Diary of an SRO Hotel," which aired in 1975.

In April 1978 Correspondent Gonzalez won a 1976-77 New York Area Emmy Award for "Outstanding Reporting." Previously he had been cited by the Kings County Puerto Rican Leadership Conference, winning their 1977 Bobby Award for Excellent Television Reporting, and the Institute of Puerto Rico, which presented him with the "Outstanding Television Journalist of 1974" Award.

Gonzalez is the author of the critically acclaimed novel, *A Gulf Against the Wind* (Doubleday, 1977), which was about a young boy's experiences growing up in Puerto Rico. His next work, *Where the Dolphins Run*, was published in 1979. Gonzalez attended the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism's annual summer program for minority group members before joining WCBS-TV.



Maestro Joseph Liso, a native New Yorker, has the distinction of having had his career and training guided by the late Maestro Arturo Toscanini. All those who have worked with the latter and with Liso have verified that he has retained the Master's touch. In 1970 and '71 Liso was a member of Sikowski's Conductors Symposia. He attended Muznes on full scholarship from the Rebekah Harkness Foundation; received a U.S. Federal Grant to study at Texas Christian where he received his B.A.; received his Masters in Composition from Hunter in New York and was the recipient of a Fulbright Grant to Italy.

Liso has conducted the Dallas Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony, Midland (Michigan) Orchestra and Choral Society and the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra performing Verdi's Otello. He has conducted in Mexico, Venezuela, Santo Domingo and Paris.

In the spring of 1972, a group of musicians founded the Pan American Symphony Orchestra, an independent organization, for the purpose of creating music performance of the best quality to the greatest number of people in an effort to increase public knowledge, understanding, education, and enjoyment of live music in

all its forms.

In cooperation with businessmen, community leaders and government funding, the Pan American Symphony Orchestra has provided opportunity for many artists to perform to cultural acclaim. Joseph Liso the musical director and conductor has quest conducted throughout the world. The PASO is comprised of musicians of all ethnic and racial backgrounds.



Pablo Elvira made his Metropolitan Opera debut in October 1979 as Tonio in "Pagliacci". Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he started his musical studies in Pablo Casals' classes, a friend and protégé of the cellist. In 1966 he was a finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, winning both a scholarship and the Kathryn Long Award. After teaching at Indiana University's School of Music, Mr. Elvira went to Germany and was successful in a number of operatic appearances; engagements then took him to Israel, South America, Puerto Rico and Mexico. In 1972 Pablo Elvira made his debut with the New York City Opera and subsequently has appeared with the New Orleans Opera. On the European scene, he returned to Frankfurt in 1977, made his debuts in Hamburg in 1978, and at the Paris Opera the Spring of 1979. Mr. Elvira is scheduled to open the 1980/81 season at the Metropolitan with "Turandot".



Emilia Conde was born in Yauco, in the coffee mountains of Puerto Rico. She gave her first piano recital in Yauco at the age of seven and later received a Puerto Rican government scholarship to study at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., where she graduated with high honors. She has been encouraged by Pablo Casals, Arthur Schnitzler, Alexander Schneider, Isaac Stern and Jose Iturbi. She is indebted to Carlo Menotti for part of her voice training. Having always loved to sing, Ms. Conde studied both classical and popular singing.

Emilia Conde has been enthusiastically acclaimed at Town Hall and Carnegie Recital Hall in New York and at various colleges in the New York area, where she also has given recitals. She has starred in leading night clubs and on TV in the U.S., Canada, the Antilles, Latin America, and in Europe in London (where she received an award on BBC television), in Paris, Madrid and Lisbon. Emilia Conde was the singing star of the Folies Bergères in Las Vegas for twenty weeks.

Her most recent LP record is "Emilia Conde In A Pop Mood — Emilia Conde In A Latin Mood" (Audio Fidelity AFSD 6280). She also is currently recording for a big

company in Germany.

Miss Conde has a vast repertoire, singing in seven languages, with three different voices: from American rock to French chansons or Latin ballads to operatic arias. She can alternate between voice and piano solos and frequently accompanies herself on the guitar.

Among the honors and awards she has received in 1970 and 71 are the Ramon Power Commemorative Medal of the (Government) Institute of Puerto Rican Culture in San Juan, the "Best Popular Singer of the Year" Award of the Institute of Puerto Rico in New York, Honorary Membership in the Association for Puerto Rican-Hispanic Culture, Inc. and the American Puerto Rican Heritage Citation of the John F. Kennedy Library for Minorities.



Emilio Arevalo pianist, director and arranger, was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He studied at the Conservatory of Music and Theatre in Buenos Aires. Mr. Arevalo was trained in classical music but showed a preference for popular music.

He has accompanied well known artists at Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, Lincoln Center, Cami Hall, on television and in some of the best nightclubs in New York City and other cities in the United States. He has performed in well known shows and nightclubs in ten South American and Central American countries.



Field Museum, Washington's Constitution Hall, University of North Carolina, Fairfield University in Connecticut, Fairleigh Dickinson and Rutgers University in New Jersey, The Folk Music Society of Northern New Jersey and Livingston College. They have also performed in several major folk festivals in Canada.

"*Tahuantinsuyo*," the name the Incas gave to their empire, is also the name three talented musicians have chosen for their group. Pepe Santana from Ecuador, Guillermo Guerrero from Peru and Sidullo Iribarria from Chile are dedicated to researching and performing authentic music from the Andes. "*Tahuantinsuyo*" music comes from the highlands of Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile and Argentina. The instruments they play are part of the musical tradition of the Andes. The popularity of "*Tahuantinsuyo*" has grown enormously as the result of several major concert appearances and their outstanding album on Adelphi Records. They have performed in New York at Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, American Museum of Natural History, New York University, City College, Cami Hall, South Street Seaport, Village Gate, Central Park Folk Festival, Folk City, Alternative Center for International Arts, Buckley School, Center for Interamerican Relations, Pinewood Folk Music Club, Hudson Revival Folk Festival, Nassau Community College Folk Festival, Lindesfarne and the New York Society for Ethical Culture. They organized the 1978 "First Festival of the Andes" in North America, as well as, the 1980 "Inti-Raymi - Festival of the Sun". Out of New York they have performed at Chicago's



Manuel B. Gonzalez was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. An accomplished pianist, he has frequently accompanied singers, but his greatest love has been composition. Among his works is the official Alma Mater Hymn of Hostos Community College of the City University of New York, where he received his Associate of Arts degree and where he is now employed as College Administrative Assistant. He received his Bachelor's degree from Empire College of the State University of New York and is currently working towards his Master's degree at New York University.

Mr. Gonzalez' first major work, "*Nelo*", a three-act tragedy sung in Spanish, was written in 1974 and presented at Alice Tully Hall one month after its premiere at the Park Theatre in New Jersey. "*Nelo*" was also produced at Town Hall and at the Teatro Ateneo in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Bronx Arts Ensemble premiered "*A Puerto Rico: The Homecoming*", a cantata for baritone solo, mixed chorus and orchestra in the summer of 1979. Among his works presented by the same chamber group are various transcriptions of Puerto Rican dances by Juan Morel Campos and Ernesto Vigoreux. "*El Jibaró*", a one-act comic opera written in 1979, uses the Spanish text of Ramon Mendez Quinones (1847-1889). Mr. Gonzalez is presently at work on a musical for the Broadway stage.



Angelo Cruz was born in Puerto Rico. He is a graduate of the University and Conservatory of Puerto Rico. He has earned advanced degrees in music at New York University and the University of Illinois. Dr. Cruz studied in Puerto Rico with the renowned singer and teacher, Maria Esther Robles. At Juillard School of Music he studied with Eleanor Steber.

Dr. Cruz has made several South American concert and opera tours, was soloist with the Puerto Rican Symphonic Orchestra (Casals Festival) and appeared with the Costa Rican Symphonic Orchestra in Carl Orff's *Carmine Burana*. In New York he has appeared as soloist in Manhattan Center, Centro Cultural Cubano, Cami Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Casa de España, Carnegie Recital Hall and Cadden Center. His last performance in New York was with the Opera Orchestra of New York, conducted by Eve Guelier. He sang the main baritone role of Donizetti's "*Lucretia Borgia*".

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for its continued efforts in trying
to improve the quality of life in
the Puerto Rican Community and the
country as a whole.*

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